

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 04889 050110Z

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SUBJ: BELIZE CLAIMS, GUERRILLAS, AND THIRD WORLD COOPERATION ARE
MAJOR TOPICS OF ECHEVERRIA-LAUGERUD TALKS

1. PRES. ECHEVERRIA MET PRES. LAUGERUD ON MEXICO-
GUATEMALA BORDER JUNE 1 TO INAUGURATE A NEW INTERNATIONAL
BRIDGE AND TO TRADE SUPPORT FOR EACH OTHER'S CURRENT PET
PROJECTS. DURING A DAY OF CEREMONY, PRESS CONFERENCES,
AND PRIVATE TALKS BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE BORDER (FOLLOWING
A PLAN WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN COPIED FROM THE ECHEVERRIA-
FORD BORDER TALKS LAST OCTOBER), THE TWO PRESIDENTS TREATED
THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 04889 050110Z

A.) BELIZE -- LAUGERUD DECLARED TO PRESS THAT BELIZE BELONGED TO GUATEMALA AND RESERVED THE RIGHT TO DEFEND ITS SOVEREIGNTY IF BRITAIN GRANTED INDEPENDENCE. GUATEMALA WANTED A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, BUT BRITISH WERE OPPOSING GUATEMALA'S INTERESTS. ECHEVERRIA CHIMED IN TO SAY THAT BELIZE WAS EXCLUSIVELY A MATTER FOR GUATEMALA AND UK TO RESOLVE, THAT MEXICO HAD NOT BEEN AND WOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN TALKS, THAT FRIENDSHIP WITH GUATEMALA CAME BEFORE ANY POSSIBLE CLAIM MEXICO MIGHT HAVE IN THE MATTER, AND THAT ITS ONLY INTEREST WAS IN SEEING THAT WISHES OF GUATEMALA RPT GUATEMALA PEOPLE WERE RESPECTED.

B) GUERRILLAS -- ECHEVERRIA OBSERVED THAT GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES WERE GRADUALLY DISAPPEARING FROM BOTH COUNTRIES, AS ELSEWHERE IN LATIN AMERICA, AS "GREAT POWERS WHO SUPPORTED THEM" MOVE TOWARD DETENTE AND AS YOUTH DISCOVER GULF BETWEEN SCHOOLBOOK THEORIES AND PRACTICAL REALITIES OF TRUE REVOLUTIONARY STATECRAFT. ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT ANTI-GUERRILLA CAMPAIGNS HAD BEEN GOOD TRAINING FOR ARMIES. ASKED WHO -- USSR, PRG, CUBA, OR CIA -- HAD BEEN BEHIND UNIVERSITY STUDENT ATTACK ON HIM SIX WEEKS AGO, ECHEVERRIA REPLIED THAT HE HAD CALLED OFF INVESTIGATION BECAUSE HE WISHED TO AVOID A "WITCHHUNT."

C. THIRD WORLD COOPERATION -- PRESIDENTS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CREATION OF SELA" AS A NEW MECHANISM DESIGNED "TO STRENGTHEN THOSE WHICH ALREADY PROMOTE INTEGRATION PROCESS." AGREED THAT CERDS WAS BEST MEANS OF ACHIEVING NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, AND THAT ECONOMIC INTEGRATION PROGRAMS OF ALL SORTS SHOULD BE BROADENED AND STRENGTHENED AS EFFECTIVE MEANS OF DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, LAUGERUD STOPPED SHORT ON MULTINATIONAL CARIBBEAN MERCHANT FLEET (NAMUCAR), SAYING HE HAD OPPOSED IT BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN SHOWN NO DATA OR ARGUMENTS JUSTIFYING ITS CREATION. AND HE NOTED THAT THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE LATIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 04889 050110Z

AMERICAN INTEGRATION WAS THROUGH DIALOGUE, COMPREHENSION, AND PATIENCE.

D) LAW OF SEAS -- PRESIDENTS AGREED THAT COASTAL STATES HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXCLUSIVE EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES BEYOND TERRITORIAL SEAS OUT TO TWO HUNDRED MILES.

E) BILATERAL TRADE -- ECHEVERRIA CONCEDED THAT TRADE BALANCE HEAVILY FAVORED MEXICO AND PROMISED TO WORK TO CORRECT THAT BALANCE. MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, WAS FACT THAT OVERALL LEVEL OF TRADE WAS SO LOW BOTH WAYS. AS IN SO MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES "SUFFERING EFFECTS OF COLONIAL EXPLOITATION OF THEIR RESOURCES," LEA SAID, IMPORTANT THING WAS SOLIDARITY WITH EACH OTHER IN ACHIEVING INCREASED PRODUCTION, LARGER INTERNAL MARKETS, AND BETTER TERMS OF TRADE WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

F) BILATERAL COOPERATION -- TWO PRESIDENTS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON PROTECTION AND RETURN OF ARCHEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS; AGREED THAT WATERS OF USUMACINTA RIVER SHOULD BE EXPLOITED FOR BENEFIT OF BOTH COUNTRIES; ASSURED EACH OTHER THAT NATIONALS OF ONE COUNTRY SHOULD ENJOY FULL PROTECTION OF LAW WHEN RESIDING OR VISITING IN THE OTHER COUNTRY (AND IN POSSESSION OF APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS); AND AGREED TO COOPERATE IN DEVELOPING THEIR RESPECTIVE PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES AND IN CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PORTS.

3. UK AMBASSADOR GALSWORTHY, WHO HAD TRAVELED TO NEARBY PUERTO MADERO FOR INAUGURATION OF NEW PORT FACILITIES THERE, GOT CAUGHT UP IN HEADLINES ALONG WITH TWO PRESIDENTS OVER BELIZE ISSUE. ASKED TO COMMENT ON LAUGERUD'S TOUGH TALK AND ON ECHEVERRIA'S TACIT SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALAN POSITION, GALSWORTHY SAID UK WOULD RESPECT WILL OF BELEZEAN PEOPLE. "BRITAIN WANTS NO COLONIES IN LATIN AMERICA OR ELSEWHERE, BUT INDEPENDENCE OR UNION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MEXICO 04889 050110Z

WITH GUATEMALA IS EXCLUSIVELY UP TO BELIZE AND DEPENDS ON ITS OWN ABILITY TO TAKE CARE OF ALL ITS NEEDS."

4. COMMENT: IT WAS CLEAR FROM COMMUNIQUE AND DISPATCHES THAT TWO PRESIDENTS BY NO MEANS AGREED ON EVERYTHING. HOWEVER, GUATEMALANS MUST HAVE TAKEN PLEASURE IN ECHEVERRIA'S TACIT SUPPORT FOR THEIR CLAIMS TO BELIZE AND HIS IMPLICIT PROMISE NOT TO EXERCISE MEXICO'S OWN CLAIM. AND ECHEVERRIA MEANWHILE MUST HAVE DERIVED SOME SATISFACTION FROM WHAT SEEMED TO US A TOUGHER THIRD WORLD POSITION ON LAUGERUD'S PART, PARTICULARLY IN HIS ENDORSEMENT OF ECHEVERRIA'S SELA IDEA. IN SUM, BOTH LEADERS SEEMED ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR CAPITALS WITH SOMETHING TO SHOW THAT THE MEETING WAS WORTH THE TROUBLE.
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